VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-2.

Please add claims:

3. A census transform generator for generating census vectors for elements of a data set having a plurality of elements, comprising:

a row delay unit having a plurality of delays for receiving an ordered stream of elements of the data set and propagating the ordered stream of elements through the plurality of delays.

4. A census transform generator for generating census vectors for elements of a data set having a plurality of elements, comprising:

a comparator unit having a plurality of comparators for receiving elements of the data set and comparing a received reference element to each of a selected plurality of received elements in order to generate a census vector for the reference element.

5. A census transform generator for generating census vectors for elements of a data set having a plurality of elements, comprising:

a row delay unit having a plurality of delays for receiving an ordered stream of elements of the data set and propagating the ordered stream of elements through the plurality of delays; and

a comparator unit, coupled to the row delay unit and having a plurality of comparators, for receiving elements of the data set that propagated through the row delay unit, and comparing a received reference element to each of a selected plurality of received elements in order to generate a census vector for the reference element.

6. The census transform generator of claim 5 wherein:

the elements of the data set represent pixel intensities of an image having M rows and N columns of pixels;

the row delay unit includes a plurality of groups of delays, each group having N delays, wherein the groups are interconnected such that the ordered stream of elements propagates among the groups; and

the census transform generator generates census vectors for reference elements within a census transform window having a number of rows substantially equal to the number of groups of delays in the row delay unit.

CLEAN COPY OF PENDING CLAIMS

Claims 3- 6 are pending.

3. A census transform generator for generating census vectors for elements of a data set having a plurality of elements, comprising:

a row delay unit having a plurality of delays for receiving an ordered stream of elements of the data set and propagating the ordered stream of elements through the plurality of delays.

4. A census transform generator for generating census vectors for elements of a data set having a plurality of elements, comprising:

a comparator unit having a plurality of comparators for receiving elements of the data set and comparing a received reference element to each of a selected plurality of received elements in order to generate a census vector for the reference element.

5. A census transform generator for generating census vectors for elements of a data set having a plurality of elements, comprising:

a row delay unit having a plurality of delays for receiving an ordered stream of elements of the data set and propagating the ordered stream of elements through the plurality of delays; and

a comparator unit, coupled to the row delay unit and having a plurality of comparators, for receiving elements of the data set that propagated through the row delay unit, and comparing a received reference element to each of a selected plurality of received elements in order to generate a census vector for the reference element.

6. The census transform generator of claim 5 wherein:

the elements of the data set represent pixel intensities of an image having M rows and N columns of pixels;

the row delay unit includes a plurality of groups of delays, each group having N delays, wherein the groups are interconnected such that the ordered stream of elements propagates among the groups; and

the census transform generator generates census vectors for reference elements within a census transform window having a number of rows substantially equal to the number of groups of delays in the row delay unit.

7. A method for generating census vectors for elements of a data set having a plurality of elements, comprising:

receiving an ordered stream of elements of the data set; and

propagating the ordered stream of elements through a plurality of delays.

8. A method for generating census vectors for elements of a data set having a plurality of elements, comprising:

receiving elements of the data set; and

comparing a received reference element to each of a selected plurality of received elements in order to generate a census vector for the reference element.

9. A method for generating census vectors for elements of a data set having a plurality of elements, comprising:

receiving an ordered stream of elements of the data set;

propagating the ordered stream of elements through a plurality of delays;

receiving the propagated elements of the data set; and

comparing a received reference element to each of a selected plurality of received elements in order to generate a census vector for the reference element.